

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 935

By Tillis

A RESOLUTION to honor and congratulate Melvin Turner on the celebration of his 102nd birthday.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly pay tribute to those citizens who are celebrating special occasions in their estimable lives; and

WHEREAS, Melvin Turner will celebrate his 102nd birthday on March 27, 2018, a milestone that will be commemorated as yet another precious souvenir of life's rich pageant; and

WHEREAS, a Jasper native, Mr. Turner joined the United States Army's 6th Horse Calvary in Fort Oglethorpe, Georgia, at the age of seventeen; he served for four years with his horse, Shorty, and had the honor of serving as a guard for President Franklin D. Roosevelt during his visit to Atlanta in 1936; and

WHEREAS, returning to civilian life, Melvin Turner worked in Chattanooga at the Crane Company and then at the Hercules Powder Company, where he made TNT; and

WHEREAS, called back to active duty in 1943, Mr. Turner was sent to Hawaii to train Japanese-American soldiers bound for the European theater; he was then stationed in Okinawa, Japan, where he served until the end of World War II in 1945; and

WHEREAS, upon his return home, Melvin Turner joined the United States Army Reserve and resumed his position at the Crane Company, where he worked with acumen and alacrity until his retirement; he later worked at Rogers Funeral Home in Jasper for twenty-five years; and

WHEREAS, when he was discharged from the Army Reserve, he joined the National Guard unit in South Pittsburg, retiring in 1972 as a first sergeant with twenty-five years of military service; and

WHEREAS, a man dedicated to public service, Mr. Turner served as a member of the Marion County Commission for forty-two consecutive years and as an alderman for the City of Jasper for twenty-nine years; he served on the police, water, sewer, and streets committees and feels his greatest accomplishments as a committee member were improving the sewer system and paving the roads; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Turner has served in leadership roles in the American Legion, Disabled American Veterans, the Olive Branch Masonic Lodge, the Scottish Rite, and the Shriners, which he served by donating his time and money to take injured children to burn centers in Kentucky and Ohio; and

WHEREAS, Melvin Turner helped build Veterans of Foreign Wars Post 6362 in Jasper and is a lifetime member; over the years, he has held every office in the post, including commander; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Turner evinces his devout religious faith as a member of Jasper First Baptist Church, which he has served in a number of leadership roles; and

WHEREAS, his many professional accomplishments aside, Melvin Turner is most grateful for the love and support he has shared with his wife, Charlsie, and his children, Ramona, Gwendolyn, and Melvin, Jr.; and

WHEREAS, in his eleventh decade, Melvin Turner is still an active and productive member of society, participating in various civic and community events; he walks one and one-half miles daily, weather permitting, and he supports the Marion County anti-litter program by picking up trash along his walking route; and

WHEREAS, we wish to grasp this golden opportunity to specially recognize one of Tennessee's most outstanding citizens on this very special occasion; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED TENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we honor and congratulate Melvin Turner on the celebration of his 102nd birthday and extend to him our best wishes for many happy returns of the day.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.